

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring a value relating to water absorption ability of a ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter having porous partition walls separating gas-flow cells, for use in setting conditions for carrying a catalyst component on the ~~structure~~, diesel particulate filter, the diesel particulate filter being a honeycomb body having a plurality of parallel passages extending in an axial direction of the honeycomb body, the passages being separated by partition walls having a predetermined pitch,

the method comprising the steps of:

(i) feeding a material in air into the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter so that the material adheres to a surface of the porous partition walls and to a surface of pores of the porous partition walls, said material being steam or hydrocarbon, wherein feeding the material comprises applying a pressure to the material,

(ii) determining an amount of said material absorbed in step (i), and ~~taking said amount as~~ calculating said value relating to said water absorption ability of the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter based on said amount, and

(iii) recording said value based on the calculation.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein said material is steam, which is fed in step (i) into the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter in air for a predetermined time period, before step (ii).

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 including before step (i) measuring a dry mass of the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter and, in step (ii) measuring a mass of ~~the cell structure~~ the diesel particulate filter following step (i) and

determining said amount of said material absorbed from the mass of the ~~cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter following step (i) and said measured dry mass.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein said material is hydrocarbon, which is passed into the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter in air at one end and a time of outflow of the hydrocarbon at the other end thereof is measured, and in step (ii) the amount absorbed is calculated from this time and the amount of hydrocarbon fed into the structure per unit time.

32. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28, further including the step of

displaying, as information relating to the water absorption ability of the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter, information on a value obtained in step (ii) by marking the information on the surface of the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter, and optionally also displaying on the surface of the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter a dry mass of the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter.

33. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32, wherein a form for displaying the information is one of characters and a bar code.

34. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32, further comprising one of:
displaying the information in ink,
wherein displaying the information in ink is an ink jet process or a thermal transfer process;
displaying the information by laser;
displaying the information by sand blast; or
displaying the information by chemical corrosion.

35. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of loading a catalyst on a ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter comprising the steps of: reading information on the

value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the ~~porous cell structure~~, diesel particulate filter, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 32; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter by a wash coating process based on the read information.

36. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 33, further comprising one of:
displaying the information in ink,
wherein displaying the information in ink is an ink jet process or a thermal transfer process;
displaying the information by laser;
displaying the information by sand blast; or
displaying the information by chemical corrosion.

37. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of loading a catalyst on a ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter comprising the steps of: reading information on the value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the ~~porous cell structure~~, diesel particulate filter, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 33; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter by a wash coating process based on the read information.

38. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of loading a catalyst on a ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter comprising the steps of: reading information on value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the ~~porous cell structure~~, diesel particulate filter, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 34; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the

~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter by a wash coating process based on the read information.

39. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of loading a catalyst on a ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter comprising the steps of: reading information on the value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the ~~porous cell structure~~, diesel particulate filter, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 36; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the ~~porous cell structure~~ diesel particulate filter by a wash coating process based on the read information.